

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

INTRODUCED BY MATTHEWS

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE AMERICAN LEGION TO ADOPT A WOOD BAT ONLY RULE FOR AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL.

WHEREAS, Brandon Patch, a citizen of the State of Montana, subject to the state's laws and deserving of its care and protection, and a proud member of the Miles City American Legion Baseball team the Mavericks, was killed by a batted ball from a nonwood bat in a baseball game in 2003; and

WHEREAS, ~~47~~ 15 players have been killed by batted baseballs from bats determined to be nonwood aluminum, composite, or "unknown" substances during a 10-year period, according to ~~a CBS News Report~~ AN EXAMINATION CONDUCTED BY THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION; and

WHEREAS, nonwood bats when used by young men and mature men ~~can~~ MAY BE ABLE TO propel a baseball off the bat at a rate of speed that ~~exceeds~~ MAY EXCEED human reaction time for pitchers and infielders; and

WHEREAS, since its inception until the invention of nonwood bats in the 1970s, baseball had been played with a wood bat; and

~~WHEREAS, the wood bat is forgiving in that it breaks, and aluminum bats repel the baseball at velocities that exceed human reaction time; and~~

WHEREAS, Major League Baseball is played exclusively with wood bats; and

WHEREAS, ALTHOUGH nationwide responsible baseball organizations and governmental bodies have ~~found~~ NOT YET CONCLUSIVELY PROVED that nonwood bats ~~that~~ increase the velocity of batted balls beyond the ability of defensive players to react to them, ~~have resulted in a rising rate of injuries and that this~~ THERE IS AT LEAST ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE, INCLUDING THE DEATH OF BRANDON PATCH, THAT THE USE OF NONWOOD BATS places our children, particularly those of high school age, in an unacceptable risk of injury; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana's American Legion may and should adopt a wood bats only rule; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana's American Legion may and should petition the National American Legion to amend its rules to adopt a wood bats only rule; and

WHEREAS, the National American Legion organization may and should alter its rules to adopt a wood

1 bats only rule.

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3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

5 That the State of Montana's American Legion be strongly urged to adopt a rule for all American Legion  
6 games within the State of Montana allowing only wood bats to be used and to petition the National American  
7 Legion to adopt a rule for all American Legion games allowing only wood bats to be used.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National American Legion be strongly urged to adopt a rule for  
9 all American Legion games allowing only wood bats to be used.

10 - END -